

body could not be altered. 2. Because, with the same occasional efficient, we can produce different forms, on different bodies, as hardness in clay, and softness in wax, by fire. 3. Because, with different occasional efficient, we can produce the same form, as death, by over feeding, and by starvation, &c. Many authors of late, however, who have made especial enquiry into the nature of causes, seem but little to have regarded this difference between them. Thus they tell us that the application of fire to wax and iron, in given conditions, liquefies them; that the heat of the fire is the cause, and that the liquefaction spoken of is the effect; and here they leave off, as if the whole subject were sufficiently investigated and concluded; or as if there were an omnipotent activity in fire, and an essential passivity in the body acted on (wax or iron); in fine, as if the liquefaction spoken of, were merely an effect, without any admixture of causes whatsoever. Now we need only make trial with fire on another body, as gunpowder, and liquefaction not ensuing, it is certain that something indispensable to liquefaction is contained in the iron, which requisite is not in the gunpowder. If, then, heat be supposed to give a certain motion to the minute particles of iron, by which the cohesion of each for another is lessened, and liquefaction of the mass ensue; this motion among the particles of iron, must have its proper causes in or about those particles, which admit of this motion; else there